

REMARKS

Claims 3-6 and 8-11 and 17-22 are presented for consideration, with Claims 3 and 9 being independent.

As will be appreciated, the claims have been amended based on the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 7 and 9 in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

In more detail, independent Claim 3 has been amended to include the substantive features of Claim 7, which has been cancelled. Additionally, Claim 9 has been placed in independent form. Claims 3 and 9 have also been amended to more concisely set forth Applicant's invention.

Dependent Claims 17-22 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. These added claims are based on Claims 4-6, 8, 10 and 11, respectively, which were previously withdrawn but have now been amended to depend from Claim 3. Claims 15 and 16 have been cancelled.

In the Office Action, Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Particular attention was paid to the grounds for this rejection in amending Claim 3, as well as Claim 9.

Claims 3, 5, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Nakamura (JP '356). In addition, Claims 3, 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Nakamura (JP '511).

Without conceding to the propriety of these rejections, Claims 15 and 16 have been cancelled, and Claim 3 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 7. Claim 5 depends from Claim 3. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully request to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed on June 1, 2004.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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